Appl No: 09/658,778 Attorney Docket: 4450-0249P

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Ghassan SEMAAN

Conf.:

4433

Serial No.:

09/658,778

Art Unit: 2662

Filed:

September 11, 2000

Examiner: A. Elallam

For:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PARTITIONING SONET CHANNELS

FRAMES INTO LOGICAL TO OPTIMIZE

BANDWIDTH UTILIZATION

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 for RCE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 March 22, 2004

Sir:

In reply to the Examiner's Final Office Action dated October 21, 2003 and the Advisory Action dated March 15, 2004, the period for reply petitioned to be extended two months herein to March 22, 2003, the following remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application as follows:

- Amendments to claims beginning on page 2; and
- Remarks/Arguments beginning on page 8.

This Reply, being filed on the first business day following March 21, 2004, is timely filed within the second month extended due date.

03/24/2004 MAHMED1 00000118 09658778

18.00 OP

MAR 2 5 2003

RECEIVED

03/24/2004 MAHNED1 00000118 09658778

310.00 DP

Technology Center 2600

03 FC:1252

02 FC:1202